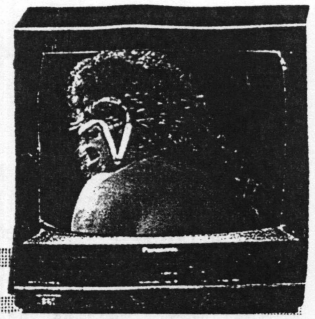
MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305



AUGUST 6-12 VOL. 3, NO. 6

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

PIPER TO TAKE OVER FOR JESSE?

STAMFORD CT----Though at deadline, a contract had not been signed, sources close to Titan Sports say Roddy Piper will replace Jesse Ventura as co-host of WWF SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING.

Ventura, who left SUPERSTARS in an endorsement dispute with WWF chief Vince McMahon, is still being pursued by LPWA syndicator Quantum Media for its series.

Piper and Ventura are co-starring in the ABC midseason replacement series TAG TEAM.

PEDICINO: HE'S NOT TALKING

ATLANTA---TV wrestling personality Joe Pedicino will neither publicly confirm nor deny his connection with a proposed new wrestling promotion with international financing.

Details of the promotion were told five weeks ago in MATWATCH and PRO WRESTLING TORCH two weeks ago linked Pedicino and wrestler Eddie Gilbert to the new group.

Last week, Pedicino said, "I'm in the midst of some very delicate negotiations I cannot talk about at this moment."

In Memphis, Gilbert said: "I always keep my options open but right now, I'm working to try to get Jerry Lawler's show on in Paducah, KY, and Jackson TN and that's where I'm concentrating."

TATUM, GILBERT SET TO REUNITE

MEMPHIS---Eddie Gilbert and John Tatum, who have not teamed since conflicts during 1987 angles in the old Universal Wrestling Federation, reteamed in a six-man match Monday night at the Mid-South Coliseum.

Tatum, Gilbert and Tony Anthony faced Jerry Lawler, Bill Dundee and Austin Idol (who has not competed in Memphis in more than a year) in a stretcher match. Tatum came to Gilbert's aid in a WMC-TV match Saturday.

Saturday Tradition

A DAY IN MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS----Thomas Wolfe may have said, "You can't go home again." But when you've never been home, it doesn't matter.

This particular Saturday, I was traveling to the home of careerbuilders in professional wrestling and one of only two live weekly wrestling shows remaining in America. Two of my three companions would be involved in the major angle of the day on WMC-TV's NEW USWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING. The other struggled to avoid rearending about a dozen cars on I-40.

In all my 25 years of following pro wrestling, I'd never attended the live Saturday TV show in Memphis. I remarked to my friends how, even at 37, this was like my initial visit to Fred Ward's COLUMBUS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING live show in 1971 and the first of my three trips to the old WAII-TV in Atlanta for BIG TIME WRESTLING with the great Ed Capral in 1967, the first week the series which has now evolved into WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, was ever broadcast in color. A mystique was with me as we made the 80-mile journey from Jackson.

WMC is on a busy Memphis four-lane directly across from a Pizza Hut and a few other fast-food amenities and furniture stores. If you're not careful, you couldn't distinguish the TV storefront from a bank or an office complex.

Identities and characters are still tenaciously guarded here. A 5x7 sign marks the front door with the words WRESTLING ENTRANCE AT SIDE DOOR. The front is for the wrestlers, their families and people here for promotional purposes. Many performers, including the ones with me, park a distance away to separate themselves from wandering fans who might dare catch faces and heels entering the same vehicles.

Just inside the front desk is a well-coiffed, matronly woman named Frances who greets you with the essence of personality and only sends you a negative bark if she catches you trying to adjust the large-screen stereo TV monitor in the lobby which stays permanently tuned to Channel 5.

We were actually 70 minutes early for the 11 a.m. live broadcast. One by one, the day's competitors entered, tote bags under arms, as we watched the NBC cartoons drone on the monitor. Tony Anthony arrived with the news that his Dirty White Girl wife Kim was home recovering from the pain of having two wisdom teeth pulled. An unknown local jobber with a blond ponytail enters, apparently the Mr. Devastation to take on Jeff Jarrett Monday at the Mid-South Coliseum. Two USWA ring girls appear with a heap more clothing than they displayed about 15 minutes later. Around 10:30, Jerry Lawler's wife, Paula, joined us on the sectional, chatting amiably with friends here to promote charity events on the show.

About 50 feet away is the legend. The place where Jim Cornette, the Midnight Express, Jimmy Hart, King Kong Bundy, Jackie Fargo, the Blade Runners, Eddie Gilbert and countless Southern ring kings were made into stars. As a TV studio, it is not as deceiving as is often the case when one compares its dimensions to its appearance on screen. It looks about the size you expect when you see the 90-minute airing at home.

The four-camera setting includes one to focus on host Dave Brown and the current week's sidekick, Michael St. John, and two pedestal cameras to follow the ring action, along with one hand-held unit for closeups. The actual studio bleachers seat approximately 150 with enough standing room for 200.

Gumby the Gorilla, the Memphis mascot, showed to entertain the kids around 10:55, followed by USWA champion Snowman (who's never been announced as such in Dallas), continuing his tradition of sitting in the audience until his match. The crowd began their chant of "GET BUCK...GET BUCK." I have no idea of its meaning and it sounded so questionable on the air, Lawler had to bring a fan out one week to explain it.

After the first couple of matches, John (J.J.) Gilliam and I retreated back to the lobby for two reasons: since I live in a TV studio five days a week, it's no big deal for me and one cannot hear the interviews clearly with the crowd heat. You know me: always listening for LINES OF THE WEEK.

The major angle of the day was to involve Eddie Gilbert and the Dirty White Boys bashing around photographer Sam Lowe (who's about to make his ring debut and become a member of a new Gilbert gang). It worked. Eddie was happy with it when Tony Anthony threw coffee in Lowe's face. But as is Eddie's wont, he was still asking how it went. Lowe, ever the salesman, was milking the angle, not knowing if a fan had sneaked into the lobby. Frances asked, "Sam, have you washed your eye out?" Sam said, "Yes, ma'am, but it still burns." Lowe leaned over to me while a dozen others were on the sofa and said, "I can put up with that Tony Anthony guy. But you don't take a guy's $800 camera. That Eddie Gilbert's going to pay for that. It just isn't right."

Soon, 12:30 came and it was all over. Except for a few interviews for Lawler's Sunday show, people were breaking away. Lawler was madly dashing through the lobby, meeting with at least three different people before making a fast trip to a car dealership for a 1 p.m. personal appearance.

Just before our departure, a loud scream came from the hallway---the kind that didn't sound like a wrestling angle. True to form, it was an altercation (see page 5) between two competitors which shifted the winds to reality. Gilbert had to scramble into the hall to help calm tempers.

Overall, the feeling was the day's show was so-so. The angle was strong but another bit with Chris Champion as Kowabunga and the Wild Things did not succeed well and the 90 minutes came off more as a maintenance show.

Still, when things work in this little studio, they sizzle. As we drove away, I felt pleased at having been part of a tradition, which will probably continue as long as WMC-TV keeps making big advertising money from it. I also recalled the time George Scott, when he first became NWA booker, rejected a Jim Cornette-proposed angle, saying: "We don't want any of that Memphis stuff." Maybe that's why George didn't last but 11 weeks in the NWA.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Ordinarily, I do not like to take space to discuss personal matters. However, since last we were with you, we have had a bit of a scare. The morning of July 30, we were rushed to Jackson-Madison County General Hospital after collapsing in my general manager's office. No, he wasn't handing me a pink slip. He is the best boss for whom I have worked.

However, as we were in conference, our sales manager noted I was turning unusually pale and I began to feel pains in the chest. Yes, it was frightening but I never felt pain in my arm usually associated with a heart attack. I was lucky. A man in our building to visit me was a paramedic and found me with a high pulserate. Within five minutes, an ambulance arrived and we were on a trip of uncertainty.

After four hours of every test known to modern man, two doctors returned and told me, "Mr. Beverly, we feel you have suffered a stress attack. You appear to be physically and perhaps mentally exhausted and need a rest. We feel you should go home and do nothing for at least four days."

I have encountered many surprises at WBBJ-TV since coming here 14 weeks ago, a number of them stressful ones. This station had been without both a general manager and news director for nearly seven months when my boss and I arrived and to say we have had to pull a car out of a mudhole is an understatement. The news department was staffed only half as large as I had been told it was by the people who interviewed me. A myriad of unexpected problems have had to be faced. Since coming, I have even had the unique experience of doing an entire prime time half-hour newscast with no camera person (and you think your nerves are bad).

Regardless, an extraordinary number of pressures led to our collapse and we have been doctor and boss-ordered to take three days off in this current week. So, Rebecca and I are headed to the north Georgia mountains to retreat and consider several options for our professional future. Therefore, your next issue of MATWATCH---while hopefully arriving at its usual time (depending on the Postal Service)---will likely not have the complete TV TEMPO segment of show results. My health has to come first and we will attempt to supplant next week with an extensive section of letters from MATWATCHers. Thanks for your patience.

JOE'S TEXAS VISIT: WHAT'S BEHIND IT?

DALLAS---Veteran TV wrestling personality Joe Pedicino has returned from a weekend trip to Dallas, where sources indicate he could be involved in negotiations involving a future venture in wrestling.

However, when reached by telephone Saturday night at his Dallas hotel, Pedicino said there is no truth to talk he is attempting to buy the United States Wrestling Association from Jerry Jarrett.

"We are not interested in the Sportatorium and I can tell you we are not trying to buy the promotion," said Pedicino. "But we are involved in some talks we cannot discuss at this time." Several wrestlers had contacted MATWATCH with reports Pedicino would be taking over the promotion.

Pedicino acted as co-host on the USWA syndicated and KTVT shows with Craig Johnson. The syndicated shows will air the weekends of Aug. 18 and 25 (see MATWATCHING, Page 5).

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

(U.S./CANADA) $5 for 5 issues, $10 for 11 issues, $15 for 16 issues.

(OVERSEAS) $9 for 5 issues, $18 for 11 issues, $27 for 16 issues.

(GIFT OFFER) You receive one free bonus issue for every 5-issue gift you give to someone other than yourself.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____

TV TEMPO
July 30-Aug. 5

(WWF/SYND.) - [SUPERSTARS]: Rick Rude d. Scott Colton; Jake Roberts d. Tom Stone; Power & Glory d. Warren Bianchi/Red Tyler; Rhythm & Blues d. McCoy Williams/George Anderson; (From SNME) Hogan-Earthquake-Bravo-Tugboat angle; Kerry Von Erich d. Buddy Rose; BRO. LUV: Demolition; VIDEO: Sgt. Slaughter points gun at the fans. RESTHOLD.
[CHALLENGE]: Hart Foundation d. Bart/Kent Carlson; Ted DiBiase d. Ricky Rice; Jimmy Snuka d. Tom Stone; Orient Express d. Randy Fox/Jim Evans; Other winners: Dino Bravo, R&B; SUMMER SLAM UPDATE. BOMB-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Royal Family d. Brent & Brad Holliday; SEGMENT: Royal Fam turned on by Eddie Gilbert who challenges RF to match w. First Family; Abdullah the Butcher d. Bob Leet; (From NAWA) Regan/Torelli d. Hunter Thompson/Speedy Gonzales; (CLASSIC) 6-man featuring Tom Zenk; Nick Busich d. Young Assassin; (INTL MATCH) Chris & Mark Youngblood d. Ron & Chicky Starr; Sheik wins squash; Hillbillies vs. Death Row ends in melee as show ends. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Steiners d. Hitman/Snake Watson; SST d. Lee Scott/Mark White; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. w. Tommy Rich & JYD; Trucker Norm d. Bill Ford; Brian Pillman d. Lt. James Earl Wright; (S. TAG TITLE/First of 3) Southern Boys d. Freebirds; DOOM d. Tim Hughes/Chris Powers. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WORLD WIDE]: (From WCW) Lex Luger gets phantom attack by Horsemen; Brad Armstrong d. Mike Thor; Doug Furnas d. Wright; R&R Ex d. Krusher Knopf/Zan Panzer; Ric Flair/Arn Anderson d. Joe Defuria/Hughes; JYD d. Barry Horowitz; ANGLE: Luger stands in aisle during Horsemen's matches. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA) - [CHALLENGE]: Skip Young d. Gary Young; Brickhouse Brown d. Sweet Daddy Falcone; Chris Adams vs. Steve Austin when melee explodes & as Chris is tied up, Percy Pringle holds Toni Adams for Jeannie Adams to beat on until Chris Von Erich decks Percy. Jeff Jarrett, Iceman Parsons also get involved until Chris A. cleans house w. chair. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Dirty White Boys d. T.D. Steel/Deuce Mason; (REPLAY) Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee d. John Tatum/Tony Anthony; (ANGLE) Eddie Gilbert/DWBs brawl w. Lawler/Dundee/Tessa; Lawler d. Gilbert by DQ when DWBs run in. Eddie burns Tom Burton when Lawler ducks flame; Rex King/Joey Maggs d. Brian Lee/ Don Harris when Wild Things run in & Lawler/Dundee save; Wild Things d. Ben Jordan/Ken Raper. POWERSLAM.

(ICW) - Undertakers d. G.Q. Madison/Fitzpatrick; Rochester Roadblock d. Fitzpatrick; Wild Bunch d. Equalizers; Angel d. Kingpin but Undertakers run in, cut Angel's hair before Vic Steamboat saves; Cyclone d. Basario. BOMB-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Rafaga Azul d. El Simbolo; Octagon/Kung Fu/Super Muneco d. Hombre Bala/Jaque Mate/Fuerza Guererra 2-3;
[BLIND DRAW TOURNEY]: (Semifinal I) MS I/Masakre/Ringo Mendoza d. Xavier America Cruz/El Satanico/El Dandy Roberto Gutierrez; (Semifinal II) Cien Caras/Mascara 2000/Rayo de Jalisco d. Astro de Oro/Pirata Morgan/Emilio Charles Jr.; (Finals) Caras/Mascara/de Jalisco d. MS I/Masakre/Mendoza 2-3. (ANGLES) 1. Morgan attacks de Oro during interview. 2. MS I/Masakre argue w. Mendoza during interview. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - Snuka d. Stone; DiBiase d. Rice; UPDATE: Power & Glory-Rockers dispute; Rick Martel d. Ronnie Garvin w. trunks; BRO. LUV: L.O.D.; Tugboat d. Haku; Harts d. Carlson/Black Bart; O Ex d. Fox/Evans; Curt Hennig d. Jim Brunzell; Other winners: Bravo, R & B. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILE-DRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR 7/29]: Big Van Vader d. Jason Knight; Mark Callous d. Eddie Martin; WNN: Sid attacks Tim Horner, Horsemen-Luger angle; Flair/Arn d. Mike Rotunda/Jerry Price; Orndorff d. Dutch Mantel; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Cornette w. Sting; Windham d. Parker; Trucker Norm d. Horowitz. RESTHOLD.
[MAIN EVENT 7/29]: Pillman d. J.D. Wolf; Bam Bam Bigelow d. Mike Thor; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. w. Freebirds (plus S. Boys angle); (From BASH) Vader d. Zenk; Dave Johnson d. Stan Hansen by DQ; Tommy Rich d. Buddy Landell. RESTHOLD.
[WCW]: Vicious d. Defuria; WRAPUP: Horsemen-Luger; Brad Armstrong d. Ford; (RECAP) Hansen suspension; Rich d. Hitman; ANGLE: Landell "offers to give" Rich a rematch but Rich decks Buddy, who runs; Orndorff d. Scott; Windham d. Chris Powers; Pillman/Zenk d. Knopf/Watson; SST d. John Douglas/Hughes; The Pearl d. Cezana; Steiners d. Death Row/Thor; Flair/Arn d. White/Scotty Williams; ANGLE: Luger stands in aisle during Horsemen's matches & Flair goes nuts demanding him to get in ring during final tag match. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - [Synd.]: The Beast d. Brenda Bennett; Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Sindee Paradise/Linda Street; (LPWA TAG TITLE) Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan d. Nasty Girls. DRAW-PLUS.
[Cable]: Shelley Francis d. Rusty Fox; Magnificent Mimi d. Brittany Brown; Judy Martin/Lelani Kai d. Simmes/Morgan by countout. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CNWA) - Akam Singh d. Lenny St. Clair; Ballplayer d. Shane Croft; (6-MAN) Ron Ritchie/Bill Jodoin/K.C. Houston d. Bowlers/Desiree Petersen; Johnny Smith d. Steve Gillespie; (CNWA TITLE) Jerry Morrow d. Biff Wellington for belt w. help from Smith. RESTHOLD.

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Recap show of "best" of past 3 weeks. NO RATING OFFERED.

(USWA/WMC) - Joey Maggs/Rex King d. Twilight Zone; Snowman d. Jeff Gaylord when Downtown Bruno runs in but as Gaylord is tied in ropes, Snow decks Bruno twice before Brian Lee/Don Harris run in. Ken Wayne saves with a 2x12; DWBs d. Raper/Hall; (MID-SOUTH COL) TEXAS DEATH: Gilbert/Anthony d. Lawler/Dundee when photog Sam Lowe creams Lawler with a camera. After, Lowe, Gilbert & DWBs quadruple-team Jerry & Bill and DWG rips off Tessa's shirt; (STUDIO) ANGLE: Eddie Marlin bans Lowe as ringside photog but Gilbert announces he now has Lowe under contract; (#2 USWA CONTENDER MATCH) Dundee d. Gilbert by DQ when Anthony runs in. Lawler saves with baseball bats but John Tatum (in Gumby the Gorilla suit) attacks Jerry & Bill (who both juice) & tripleteam leaves the faces laying. Camera follows to hallway where heels have the real Gumby bound & gagged. (NOTE: Show interrupted at 12:08 p.m. for NBC special report on Kuwait). DRAW-PLUS.

(JERRY LAWLER SHOW) - Jerry calls Austin Idol & asks him to join Lawler & Dundee for a 6-man tag vs. Gilbert/Anthony/Tatum. Lawler also chews out Sam Lowe for signing a contract

with Gilbert, who laughs about it. NO RATING.

(AWA/ESPN) - Brad Rheingans d. W.T. Jones; Col. DeBeers d. Mike Braham; Sgt. Slaughter d. John (Pit Bull) Pizolka; Texas Hangman d. Mike Braham; D.J. Peterson d. George Anderson; TEAM BATTLE ROYAL: Scott Norton/The Trooper win; ANGLE: Sarge rejects Ox Baker's offer to manage. BOMB-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Paul E. Dangerously, DANGER ZONE, on S. Boys: "I know they're Northern because I'm from the North and we're all scum." 2. Eddie Gilbert, WMC: "If our illustrious President George Bush had any sense, he'd call Hot Stuff Eddie Gilbert and have me develop a plan to save America and Kuwait from Iraq." 3. Gilbert, WMC: "About the time you get the rules figured out, I change the game." 4. Buddy Landell, NME: "I've been gone for 5 years. I come back and I'm jerking curtains." 5. Ed Whalen/fan letter, PRO WRESTLING PLUS: (FAN) "You've become quite a legend, Mr. Whalen." (EW) "What you really mean is the guy is getting old." 6. Frank Sisson, CNWA, to Whalen: "You seem to have the ability to get people annoyed with you." 7. Gorilla Monsoon/Bobby Heenan, PTW: (GM) "Hoo...hoo...hoo. I don't know what that means in Fijiian." (BH) "Maybe it's the dinner bell." 8. Monsoon, PTW, to Heenan: "I understand it was the toughest 4 years for you---3rd grade." 9. Dirty White Girl, WMC: "I didn't get my name sipping tea with old women." 10. Paul E., DANGER ZONE: "Tom Brokaw, no credibility. Dan Rather, no credibility. Walter Cronkite, Jim Ross...none of these guys have any credibility."

11. Toni Adams, USWA, to Jeannie: "Jeannie Adams, you need to stay out of our lives, like ex-wives should." 12. Dutch Mantel, WWW, on Luger attack: "He probably drove up to some 7-11, got some gas and didn't pay his bill and the attendant slapped him around." 13. Tony Schiavone/Mantel, WWW: (TS) "People around the world love Rocky King." (DM) "I don't." (TS) "You're from Oil Trough, Texas." 14. Mantel, WWW: "I'm not stupid. I can mess up." 15. Heenan, PTW, on Snuka: "If you starved him for 2 weeks, he'd be unbeatable." 16. Heenan, PTW, on Rockers: "They need to go run a daycare center." 17. Landell, NME: "I'm a non-discriminant kind of guy." 18. Mantel, WWW: "My stat sheet says Doug Furnas has a criminal record. Something about bad checks." 19. Heenan, PTW, to Monsoon: "You're a paid snitch. You'd have never lasted at San Quentin." 20. Heenan, PTW, to Monsoon: "All the years I've sat here on this program, I've never lied to you. Well, maybe once or twice."

21. Landell, WCW: "If I tell you it's Easter, go home and paint your eggs." 22. Jerry Lawler/Gilbert, LAWLER SHOW: (JL) "Eddie Gilbert, why do you do what you do?" (EG) "I learned it all from you." 23. Tony Rumble, ICW: "The Psycho tried to buy London Bridge." 24. Bob Dow, ICW, to Rumble: "You're like the Psycho: there's a spot of open air nothing goes through." 25. Rumble, ICW: "I'm the straw that stirs the drink called the ICW." 26. Jim Ross, PH: "There you see Ensign Tim Parker. Ever watch MCHALE'S NAVY?" 27. Jim Cornette, WCW, to Missy Hyatt: "Dump that Jim Ross, make me your co-host and you'll be known as the Deborah Norville of professional wrestling."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Schiavone, WWW: "Many times, the Horsemen are nothing more than a street gang."

SEXIST LINES - 1. Gilbert, WMC, to DWG: "When Tessa leaves the ring, I want to see her bare naked." 2. Percy Pringle, USWA: "Toni Adams oughtta be home washing clothes for that baby."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. LEX COWARD (Dutch Mantel on Luger). 2. MISINFORMED MANTEL (Schiavone on Dutch). 3. THE BARNEY FIFE OF THE WWF (Heenan on Bossman). 4. THE MASTER PLANNER (Gilbert on himself).

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Mike Adams, CNWA, to J. Smith on Abdul Weazel: "Who's this? Your hand puppet?" 2. Alfred Hayes/Monsoon, PTW, on Greg Valentine: (AH) "Doesn't he look like Roy Orbison?" (GM) "Yeah, they're both dead." 3. Tracy Smothers, NWA PRO: "Do I talk like I'm from Green Bay?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. WMC, Lowe decking Lawler w. camera. 2. NWA PRO, Steve Armstrong's "Dixie Demolition." 3. WMC, Gilbert, Tatum shaking hands. 4. WWF, Volkoff receiving award from Boy Scouts. 5. NME, Buddy Landell directing Jackie Crockett how to photograph him.

ENGLISH LESSONS - 1. Tommy Rich, WCW: "I SEEN Lex. He's BEAT up." 2. Samuel F. Kent, PW'90: "He knows all there ARE to know about professional wrestling."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Arn Anderson, NWA PRO: "What goes around comes around." 2. Downtown Bruno, WMC: "It BEEZ that way, sometimes."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - 1. WMC, for failing to play classic bump music three times on breaks.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. SOUTHEASTERN and WMC, for breaking ropes. In SE show, the top rope broke and bottom rope had to be elevated. On WMC, during Snowman-Brian Lee match, bottom rope broke, leaving only two. 2. WORLD WIDE, for spelling Tim Hughes' name HUGES.

BOO AWARDS - 1. WWF, for Sgt. Slaughter pointing a gun at the screen, as if he were threatening fans with a weapon. This may be wrestling but it also is the most tasteless use of a character who is still a hero on a cartoon show. 2. USWA/WMC, for showing stripping of Tessa during Mid-South main event. These female clothestearing angles are a cliche and disgrace. Enough is enough, guys. If you want to see women's wrestling done right, watch LPWA.

TUBE TALK

I know every show is not seen in every market but was it necessary to show the Luger-Horsemen angle on every TBS and NWA syndie show?....The Slaughter angle was far more tasteless than Dusty's arm in the toilet bits last year....The Gilbert stuff is fresh and intense in Memphis but I'm getting almost equally as weary seeing Lawler and Dundee with the baseball bats every week....Dirty Dick Daniel enthusiastic about his new 11 a.m. Saturday morning slot on WMET in the Baltimore-Washington area for INSIDE THE SQUARED CIRCLE....A reminder that Joel Goodhart (WIP, Philadelphia) has an info number: 1-800-C-RASSLIN.

A special good wish to our friend David Williamson, who has been hospitalized of late. David keeps us posted on the hilarious SOUTHEASTERN show....David was monitoring Saturday. If SOUTHEASTERN had a second recap show in a row, it could spell bad news for the group....We'll be a guest on WFAN in New York at 3 a.m. Aug. 18. FSB.

PERCY THE PILL: Joe Pedicino was used on the KTVT and syndicated USWA shows for Aug. 18 and 25 in order to "fire" Percy Pringle. Percy was suspended from TV for his assistance to Jeannie Adams in the wife-ex wife angles.

SPORTATORIUM SUCCESS: On the same night Kerry Von Erich was headlining his first Dallas WWF card before a so-so crowd at Reunion Arena, the Sportatorium drew 1,640---its largest turnout in almost a year.

MORE CATFIGHTING: The Toni vs. Jeannie Dallas angle will continue at least through August. Boni Blackstone did color on one of the USWA shows for one of the Toni-Jeannie battles and Skandor Akbar nearly spilled Boni over at one point.

WHAT'S IN THE PIX: On one of the shows, Jeannie brings out a set of Polaroids of Chris and "another woman" and actually shows them on air (unlike the Dusty Rhodes-Baby Doll-Larry Zbyszko abortive angle of 2 years ago).

A REINJURY?: No one has confirmed this and I doubt if anything is to it...but a number of NWA fans in Columbus GA, including journalist Mark Clark, believe Sting suffered a slight reinjury to his leg last Thursday night. As he left Municipal Auditorium, Sting appeared to be favoring it.

ANOTHER BUILD: Events coordinator Chip Burnham had to be happy with the Columbus turnout of 2,200. That's only half a house but it was the biggest Fountain City NWA crowd since November 1988.

REST OF THE MONTH: Here's the remainder of the NWA sked for August on TBS: (POWER HOUR) this Friday, 24th and 31st, 10:20 p.m. (the 17th will be pre-empted for a Chuck Norris movie twinbill); (WCW, all 6:05) 11th and 25th (one-hour), 18th (two hours); NWA MAIN EVENT (all at regular time).

DISHING SLAM: Satellite dish owners will be charged $24.95 for SUMMER SLAM until the day of the event, when it jumps to $29.95.

DISH PREVIEWS: The Aug. 19 SUMMER SLAM preview show on USA will be unscrambled for dish owners on Galaxy 3, channel 2. That's also where the SS'90 infomercial will air.

TWIST OF IRONY: Only ten minutes after Eddie Gilbert's line Saturday calling on President Bush to call Hot Stuff for help in solving the Kuwait crisis, NBC interrupted the WMC Memphis show for a special report on the situation.

MASS CHANGES: Jerry Lawler was a bit down about the 17-minute interruption from NBC. He had to scrap one match with the Wild Things (which went on for the TV studio audience) and could not complete the angle which had him making a phone call to Austin Idol for help in last Monday's six-man tag at the Mid-South Coliseum.

BUT THERE'S MORE: But it wouldn't have worked anyway. Idol, who has been selling water purifier systems in Florida, was tied up on business and was not available when the phone call was to originally have been made. So, Idol's wife tracked him down and the call was completed and taped for Lawler's Sunday JERRY LAWLER SHOW.

MATWATCHING

NETWORKING: Lee Marshall now on KDAY in the L.A. area as "King News." It's a predominantly rap station and Marshall uses his stints trying to bully street gang members into turning over a new leaf.

MOVIE SCENE: Most of you are aware Kerry Von Erich has a cameo in the movie PROBLEM CHILD as a neo-Nazi, of all things. Jesse Ventura hosted a tripleheader of action films on THE MOVIE CHANNEL July 31.

A LITTLE TIFF: Word continues of less than amiable feelings between a well-known booker and a prominent TV announcer. A number of MATWATCHers have told us of a recent taping where the booker chewed out the announcer in front of a number of wrestlers. Sources tell us the commentator is biting his lip, expecting the booker's term will not be permanent.

BALANCE SHEET: MATWATCH has learned NWA events coordinators have been told the average break-even figure at the arenas to cover salaries, rents, etc., is $45,000 per night, of which there have not been many such nights of late.

CACTUS CAPERS: Expect Cactus Jack to work some dates fairly quickly in Memphis to keep in tune in case the reported new major cranks up.

GILBERT'S GROUP: Eddie Gilbert will probably assemble a new group (not called the First Family) of himself, Cactus, Sam Lowe and John (J.J.) Gilliam. Lowe will play a Secret Service character not unlike what was tried with Jack Victory in the NWA.

STILL ALIVE?: After our report on failing promotions last week, we received two calls saying the NAWA and IWA still have life. I missed two return calls to Rob Russen after my release from the hospital and will try again this week. But reports continue to conflict on George Scott's NAWA. A key source tells us the group still has five more dates booked and will attempt another TV taping in September. But another source affiliated with the group told us he does not see how the group financially can continue.

NEW ZEALAND: TVNZ in New Zealand has cranked up again with a local show called THE MAIN EVENT, a one-hour Friday night program produced by Steve Rickard.

AND IN LONDON: ITV Central has revived TV wrestling in England after a 2-year absence from local screens (the WWF & AWA are on cable here). Ex-British King of the Ring Jackie Pallo is producing the show, tailored for a younger demographic and some veteran English performers (Giant Haystacks, Big Daddy and veteran announcer Kent Walton) have all predicted doom for the series. Thanks to Tom Burke for the info.

ROSSIE'S REMINISCING: If you're an old TV buff, you knew when Jim Ross called Tim Parker ENSIGN Tim Parker on NME, he was referring to the old Tim Conway role on McHALE'S NAVY.

PRE-EMPTIONS: Both CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP and IWA were bumped on SPORTSCHANNEL last week for a pro tennis event.

GOOD LUCK, HOWARD: Howard Goldman is leaving his co-host slot on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW in Baltimore. We wish him well.

PINFALL PROFILE

(Part 2 of Excerpts from Chris Cruise and Terry Funk on PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT, WNYG-AM, Long Island, NY)

JOHN AREZZI: Now that the two of you are no longer on NWA wrestling, how do you feel about the TV shows?

FUNK: We tried to have a little fun with the wrestling but we kept being preached to by management that it had to be wrestling, wrestling, wrestling and I don't think you can do that in today's environment.

CRUISE: What you have to realize is that you're not just producing wrestling. You're producing television and you're not just competing with other wrestling shows, you're competing with all forms of entertainment on television and if you don't make any form of television, whether it's wrestling or any other program, at least partially entertaining, you're not going to succeed, but it was hard to get that across.

CALLER: Terry, who would you say was your toughest opponent? Ric Flair?

FUNK: Flair was exceptionally good---I wouldn't say he was my toughest. Probably tougher were Jumbo Tsuruta and Antonio Inoki in Japan, Harley Race in his prime, Lou Thesz---what a phenomenal wrestler. And I actually wrestled my brother one time.

CALLER: Any chance of Ricky Steamboat or The Great Muta coming back to the NWA?

FUNK: You'd have to ask them. But as for Muta, I doubt it very seriously. It was a sad situation why that young man left the NWA and I won't comment any further on that. But I don't think he has a desire to come back.

AREZZI: It's just a shame we can't see or hear the two of you on a regular basis on a wrestling show and I hope we can have that opportunity again in the future.

CRUISE: Thank you. I'd love to work with Terry again and as I said earlier, I'm going to be working with LADIES PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING soon and there are a couple of other groups we've talked with, so I hope some things will develop soon.

FUNK: Well, right now the only commentating I'm doing is at the Double Cross Ranch but you never know when the phone might ring, Mr. Isuzu. Did I get that last name right?

AREZZI: No, but it doesn't matter. And we thank you both for a fine hour on PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT.

RATINGS RAP

PRIME TIME LEADS SIXTH STRAIGHT TIME IN RACE

USA Network's PRIME TIME WRESTLING raced to its sixth straight weekly victory in the cable ratings race for the week ending July 30 and the WWF syndicated package held onto a comfortable lead for the week ending July 22.

PTW scored a 3.2 rating for its show headed by a Rick Martel-Ronnie Garvin topliner, followed by WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING with a 2.9. The WCW score gives Ole Anderson a 10-week Saturday average of 2.6 with a 6.9 percent share.

Both NWA Sunday shows fell 24% from their strong 2.9 of the week before. NWA MAIN EVENT and POWER HOUR both dropped from a 2.8 GOODWILL GAMES lead-in to 2.2 ratings in each of their hours.

In syndication, the WWF hours averaged a 9.0, holding to a comfortable 2.3 lead over the NWA.

CABLE

Week Ending July 30	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 7/30)	3.2	5.5	1.69 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 7/28)	2.9	7.6	1.58 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 7/29)	2.3	7.3	1.21 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 7/29)	2.2	5.3	1.19 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 7/29)	2.2	5.0	1.19 million
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 7/28)	0.9	9.2	491,000

SYNDICATION

Week Ending July 22	Rating	Stations	Pct. U.S.
WORLD WRESTLING FEDRATION	9.0	248	97%
THE WRESTLING NETWORK (NWA)	6.7	173	94%

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
90 W. Main St. #5
Governeur, NY 13642
11/19/90

FIRST CLASS MAIL